

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

[0086] A process converts stand-alone data sources to an open standard based architecture and integrates data throughout disparate departments and organizations. Once the data is in an open environment, it is made available in a collaborative environment via Web-based applications. The process does not require that the data come under the control of a central database, rather each data owner retains control. The invention allows users to maintain original processes for conducting their day-to-day activities. With minor modification to client applications, role-based interconnectivity of data can be established to allow data elements to be re-used by all downstream users without re-entering data, thereby improving product and process knowledge, preventing errors, handling data arbitration, improving data visibility and flexibility for decision makers, and saving resources thereby allowing collaborators to focus on core business competencies.